6.L. 6.H

CHARLES,

By the Grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deanes, and their Officials; Parsons, Vicars, Curats, and to all spirituall Parsons. And to all Justices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Constables, Churchwardens, and Headboroughes, And to all Officers of Cities, Boroughes, and Townes Corporate: And to all other our Officers, Ministers, and Subiects whatsoeuer they be, aswell within Liberties, as without, to whome these presents shall come, Greeting.

WHEREAS Wee haue beene lately informed by the most Reuerend Father in God our Right trusty and Right welbeloued Counsellour William by Gods prouidence Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate and Metropolitane of all England, And by our Right trusty and welbeloued Counsellour Thomas Lord Coventry Lord Keeper of Our Great Seale of England, That an humble Certificate hath been lately sent from the Quarter Sessions held at our City of Oxon for the County of Oxon, bearing date the Seuenth day of Aprill in the Eleventh yeare of Our Raigne, Aswell vnder the hands of our Right trusty and welbeloued Cozen William Viscount Say and Seale, And of our trusty and welbeloued Iohn by Diuine prouidence Bishop of Oxon, As vnder the hands of divers others of our welbeloued Subiects Justices of Peace of our sayd County of Oxon on the behalfe of the Inhabitants of the Parish of Dedington in the sayd County: That there was in the Towne of Dedington in the Parish aforesaid a very faire Church with a beautifull Tower, in which was a very good Ring of Fiue great and tuneable Bells; which Tower vpon the Ninth day of March last past before the date hereof fell downe to the ground, and in the fall thereof brake the Bells, and did also breake downe a great part of the Body of the said Church, Vpon the repaire of which Church and Tower the Inhabitants had bestowed the yearely Summe of Fourescore Pounds for these Seven or Eight yeares last past, as by their Church booke appeareth: Of which great Losse many of the sayd Justices haue been eye-witnesses, Towards the Reedifying and repayre whereof the Inhabitants of the sayd Parish haue taxed themselues to the Summe of Eleven Hundred Pounds, which is conceiued to be a proportion beyond their Abilities notwithstanding: Which vpon view thereof by Artificers skilfull in Architecture, the charge is Estimated and returned to our sayd Justices, that the Worke cannot bee finished vnder lesse then Eight-Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds, because it was generally conceiued to be one of the fairest Fabricks of that kind in these parts of the Kingdome whilest it stood. Now for that there is no hope of perfecting this so great a worke by the Inhabitants of the sayd Parish of Dedington by reason of their extreame poverty: Our sayd Justices haue therefore humbly recommended the same to be presented to Our Princely consideration, And for that Wee are well assured that all our good and loyall Subiects will be heartily willing to contribute chearefully to the Reedifying of Gods House for the lauding and praising of his most holy Name:

KNOW ye therefore, that of Our especiall grace and Princely compassion, We haue ordered and granted, and by these Our Letters Patents do order and grant that a generall Collection be had and made of the charitable deuotions of all our louing Subiects whatsoeuer Inhabiting in our Counties of Oxon, Middlesex, Surry, Kent, Essex, Sussex, Southampton, Berks, Wilts, Dorset, Devon, Sommerset, Cornwall, Suffolke, Norfolke, Cambridge, and Ely, Bedford, Buckingham, Northampton, Warwicke, Worcester, and Hereford; and in Our Cities of London, and Westminster, and the Suburbs and Liberties of the same, Our Borough of Southwark, our City and University of Oxford, our Cities of Canterbury, Rochester, with the Cinque Ports, our Cities of Chichester, and Winchester, our Towne and County of Southampton, with the Isle of Wight, our City of Salisbury, our Town and County of Poole, our Cities of Exeter, Bristoll, Bath, Wells, and Norwich, our Town and University of Cambridge, our Cities of Peterborough, Coventry, Worcester, and Hereford: And in all Cities, Townes Corporate, priviledged places, Parishes, Villages, and in all other places whatsoever within our sayd Counties and Cities, for and towards the substantiall and effectuall Reedifying of the said Parish Church and the Tower thereto belonging with all conuenient speed, in such maner as the sayd Church and Tower were formerly Erected: And also for and towards the new casting and making the sayd Bells, and all other things to the sayd Church and Bells and every of them belonging. Any Ordinance, Proclamation, or prouision heretofore made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

And to the end, that the charity of our well disposed Subiects may be solely and iustly imployed vpon the Premisses without fraud: Our will and pleasure is, That the [illegible] Diocesse of Ox[illegible] for the time being, and Three of the next adioyning Justices [illegible] hereof the Lord Bishop to be one, shall [illegible] vnder their hands aswell such persons of Ability [illegible] honesty [illegible] aforesayd collect and receiue the [illegible] Counties, Cities, and places aforesayd, as [illegible] sayd [illegible] Pounds whi[illegible] Wher[illegible] Parish of Dedington haue rated themselues at as aforesayd: And as the said Sum of Eleven Hundred Pounds or any part thereof, and [illegible]er such Money shall be gathered and collected, Our like will and pleasure is, That the same shall be forthwith payd over by such collector and collectors, to such person or persons, as by the said Bishop and Justice or Justices as aforesayd, shalbe appointed to receiue and disburse the same, for, and vpon the sayd Worke: All which persons, and euery of them respectiuely shall make his, and their seuerall Accompt and Accompts before the said Bishop and Justices, or any Two of them, whereof the said Bishop for the time being to be one of all their seuerall Receipts and disbursements of the sayd Moneys, and receiue and follow their directions from time to time touching the same. TO which sayd Bishop for the time being, with euery or any one of the sayd Three Justices, Wee doe by these presents giue full power and authority effectually to doe and execute the Premisses, and to proceed therein in all things according to the true intent and meaning of these presents: And if it happen that any such collector or Receiuer, or other person or persons whomsoeuer imployed as aforesayd shall die, or before the finishing of the sayd Worke, be remoued from any imployment concerning the premisses wherein he or they shall happen to be trusted, Then, and in such case the sayd Bishop and Justices, or Justice as aforesayd, shall and may from time to time Nominate and appoint any other fit person or persons to performe and execute the same according to the true intent and meaning of these presents.

WHEREFORE Wee will and command you, and euery of you, that at such time and times as the bearer or bearers hereof, shall come and repaire to any your Churches, Chappels, or other places to aske and receiue the gratuities and charitable benevolence of our sayd Subiects, quietly to permit and suffer them so to doe, without any manner your lets or contradiction whatsoeuer. And We doe hereby likewise will and command you, and euery of you the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curats deliberately to publish and declare the Tenour of these our Letters Patents vnto our Subiects in euery of your Parishes, Churches, and Chappels, respectiuely within the Counties, Cities, and Liberties aforesayd, Vpon the next Sunday after the same shall be tendred vnto you, and at such time when no other Collection by Letters Patents or otherwise shall be made, Earnestly exhorting and perswading them to extend their liberall contribution to a Worke so full of piety.

AND further We doe hereby require and command you the Churchwardens of euery Parish where such collection is to be made (as aforesayd) to collect and gather the charitable benevolence of all our louing Subiects, aswell strangers as others. AND for that it cannot otherwise happen, but that some of the Parishioners houlholders may be absent from their parish Church, or Chappell at the time when these our Letters Patents shall be there published, Our will and pleasure therefore is, That you the Churchwardens or Churchwarden thereof doe repaire to the particular habitations of euery such person or persons absent, and then and there of euery such houlholder, or others on his, or her behalfe, to aske and receiue their and euery of their charities for the purpose aforesayd. And what shall bee by you, and euery of you so gathered in euery respectiue Church, Chappell, and parish within the Counties, Cities, and places aforesayd, Our expresse will and pleasure is, shall be endorsed on the backeside of these our Letters Patents or the coppy or Breefe hereof by the Minister of euery parish, and your selues the Churchwardes respectiuely in words at length, and not in figures, with your names subscribed thereunto.

AND Lastly, to auoyd Diminution of the Sums to be collected by vertue hereof, and that as few may be imployed for the gathering and collecting of the charities aforesayd as is possible, Wee doe hereby further require and command you the Churchwardens of euery Parish and Chappelry within the Counties, Cities, and places aforesayd, without excuse or further delay, to bring, or cause to be brought to euery Visitation to be held before the Bishop of euery Dioces respectiuely, or his Chancellor within any the sayd Counties, Cities, and places aforesayd, the particular Summe and Summes of Money then being in your, and euery of your hands which haue been by you formerly collected by vertue, and according to the direction in these our Letters Patents contayned: Together with the Breefe of these our Letters patents so endorsed as aforesayd, Vnlesse such collector or collectors appointed as aforesayd, shall in the meane time repaire vnto you, or any of you to demand and receiue the same, And the same Breefe and the Moneys thereupon endorsed, to deliuer to euery such particular collector as shall be appointed to receiue the same by authority from the said Bishop for the time being, and such Justices or Justice as aforesayd, signified vnder their hands and Seales, receiuing from such collector an Acquittance for euery Sum so to be payd and receiued as aforesayd.

IN Witnesse whereof, Wee haue caused these Our Letters to bee made Patents for Two whole yeares to endure from the date of these presents. Witnesse Our selfe at Westminster, the Seuenteenth day of February, In the Eleventh yeare of Our Raigne.

DAVVE.

Per breue de Priuato Sigillo.

God saue the KING.

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